



"How many birds of the same kind do you want? All you can get."

– Elliot Coues

International Migratory Bird Day

Walk in the Footsteps of Historic Ornithologists

May 13, 2017

John Burroughs

Apr 3, 1837– Mar 29, 1921

- American naturalist and nature essayist, active in the U.S. conservation movement.
- Best known for his talent of combining scientific accuracy with a grand poetic expression. He lived and wrote after the manner of Henry David Thoreau, studying and celebrating nature.
- According to his book *Winter Sunshine* he took field notes while walking up Oxen Run in Washington D.C. to a place called "Pumpkintown."
- In 1864, Burroughs accepted a position as a clerk at the Treasury Department, all the while, continuing to publish essays, and he grew interested in the poetry of Walt Whitman. Burroughs met Whitman in D.C. in November 1863, and the two became close.
- Whitman encouraged Burroughs to develop his nature writing, and revised and edited his first essay collection on birds, flowers, and rural scenes, *Wake Robin* in 1871.

Paul Bartsch

Aug 14, 1871 – Apr 24, 1960

- Graduated from the University of Iowa, and in 1899 he became a zoology instructor at Columbian University, which would later become George Washington University.
- In 1902 he started systematic scientific bird banding, the first do so in modern times. He banded more than 100 Black-Crowned Night Herons in the D.C. with bands inscribed "return to Smithsonian Institution."
- After World War II he served as a board member on the Audubon Naturalist Society.
- In 1956 he retired from the Smithsonian Institution after more than 50 years of service and settled at his estate at Mason's Neck, which he proceeded to help turn into a wildlife sanctuary.
- Bartsch's ornithological papers include field notes on his investigations in Haiti, the Florida Keys, and the West Indies, and field notes pertaining to the Albatross Philippine expedition.

Dr. Elliott Coues

Sep 9, 1842 – Dec 25, 1899

- His interest in birds began early; he was fortunate to have connections in the Smithsonian Institution before he graduated from college.
- In 1861 he published a list of birds of D.C., and it was re-published in 1883.
- He edited all the publications of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey from 1876 to 1880 and contributed several volumes to the reports of the survey, notably his "Birds of the Northwest," "Fur Bearing Animals," "Birds of the Colorado Valley," and several installments of a universal "Bibliography of Ornithology."
- He is best known for his publications on North American birds. His monumental *Key to North American Birds* was written while he was stationed at Fort Macon, North Carolina.
- In 1883 he was a founding member of the American Ornithologists Union (AOU).
- His home is a National Historic Landmark located at 1726 N Street NW, Washington, D.C.

History of Birding in D.C.

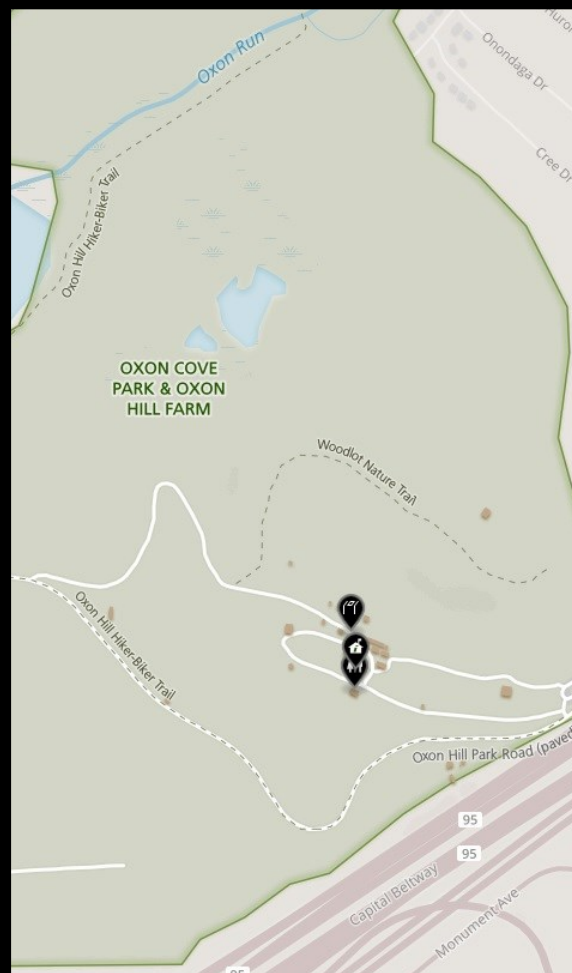
Washington D.C. is often considered the origin of ornithology. Prior to the advent of modern bird surveys, D.C. was a hub for some of the most significant ornithological reporting within the United States. Before the emergence of binoculars, identifying birds was once thought only possible by shooting them. It was only in the late 19th century that the call for bird protection began leading to the rising popularity of observing living birds.

The region plays a significant role in the life history of many of the bird species in Eastern North America. The diversity of habitats available to birds during the breeding, wintering, and migratory periods combined with its geographic position along the Atlantic Flyway make it one of the most diverse physiographic regions in North America, and one of the most popular birding hotspots.

Renowned ornithologists Dr. Elliott Coues and Paul Bartsch, and naturalist John Burroughs had some of the greatest influence shaping the emerging field of ornithology at the turn of the century in D.C., as well as throughout the world. Their scientific contributions continue to influence ornithology today.

Birding is a longstanding pastime in the District of Columbia; National Park Service lands are historic birding grounds.

Happy Birding!



Oxon Cove Park

‘John Burroughs’

Bird Walk

Meeting Location: Oxen Hill Farm Visitor Center

Time: 7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Leaders: NPS Ranger Robert Mocko and NPS Ranger Barbara Litman

Description : Birding in the footsteps of John Burroughs, in an area that inspired his writing!

Kenilworth Park ‘Paul Bartsch’

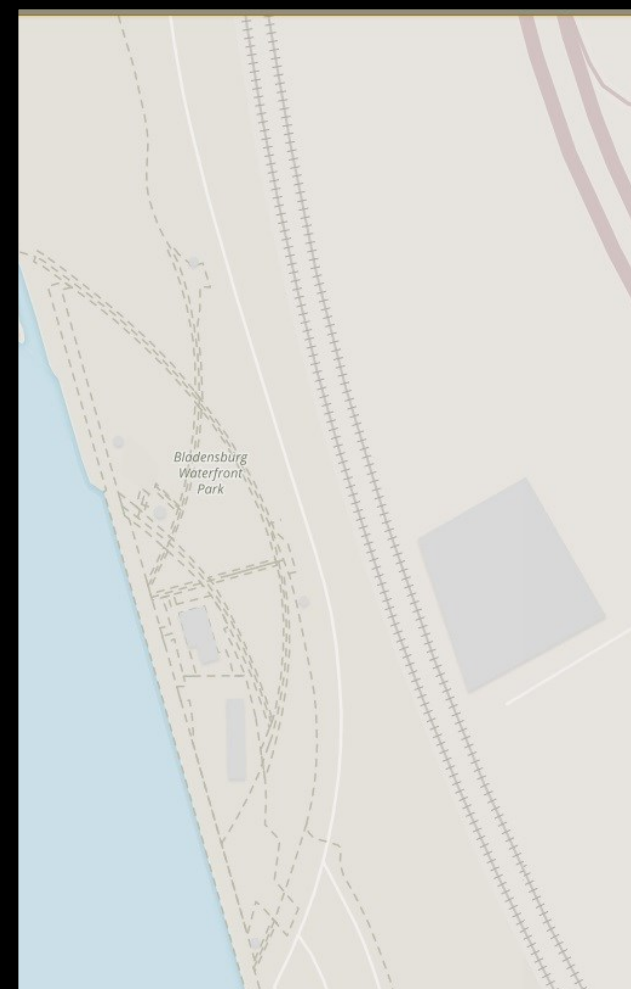
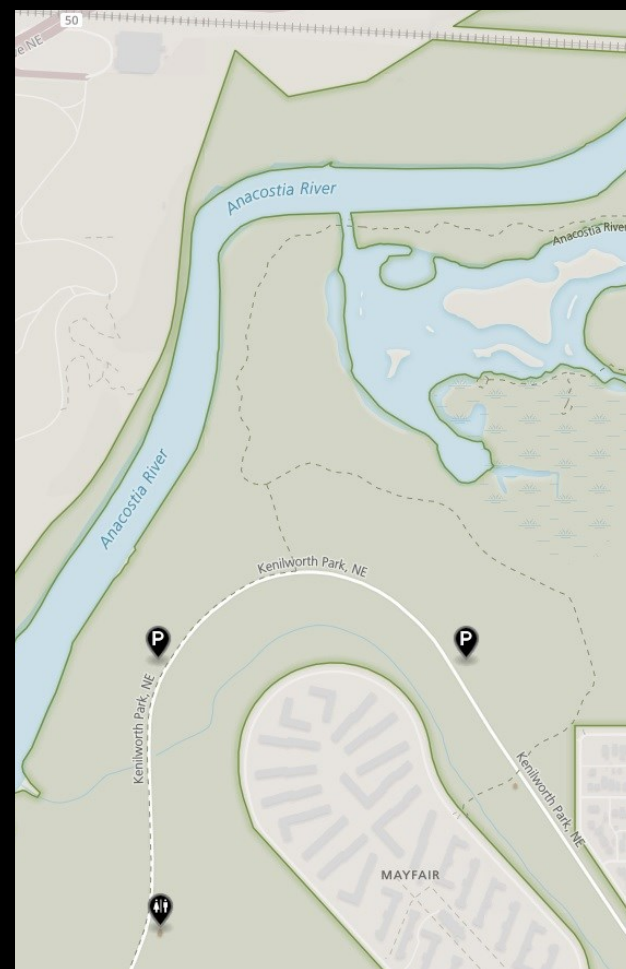
Bird Walk

Meeting Location: Kenilworth Park entrance at corner of 40th Street NE and Anacostia Ave NE

Time: 7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Leaders: Gerry Hawkins and NPS Ranger Robert Steele

Description : Birding in the footsteps of Paul Bartsch , in an area where he took detailed field notes and banded Black-Crowned Night Herons!



Bladensburg Waterfront Park

‘Elliott Coues’ Bird Walk

Meeting Location: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Visitor Center

Time: 7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Leaders : Will McPhail and NPS Ranger Rebecca Wayne

Description : Birding in the footsteps of Dr. Elliott Coues, over Beaver Dam Creek mentioned in his field notes! Walk is ~5 miles round trip from Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens to Bladensburg Waterfront Park.